



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls Appoints Representative Fred Hawkins to Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 1, 2021) — Today, Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, appointed Representative Fred Hawkins, R-St. Cloud, as a member of the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys. The Task Force was created by House Bill 7033, sponsored by Representative Traci Koster, R-Tampa Bay, and signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 21.

"Having served on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club and the Children's Advocacy Center, Representative Hawkins is a seasoned advocate for children that will serve him well on the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys," said Speaker Sprowls. "The accolades he received from the Boy Scouts, the Golden Eagle Award and the Silver Beaver Award, demonstrate the passion and dedication he has for Florida's youth."

"I am honored to have been selected as a member of the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys by Speaker Sprowls," said Representative Hawkins. "Florida's young men need structure and strategies that will allow them to succeed and make positive contributions to society."

Representative Hawkins is also President and CEO of the Osceola County Education Foundation.

House Bill 7033 establishes the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Department of Education (DOE) to examine evidence-based strategies for closing the achievement gap for boys and to make recommendations to the DOE, the Governor, and the Legislature. The recommendations must address professional development for instructional personnel, curriculum and

classroom activities in early learning programs, and the academic, behavior, and mental health supports to help educate and raise young men who are better prepared for success in school and life.

Elected in 2020 to represent the 42nd House District of Florida, Representative Hawkins serves on the Education & Employment Committee as well as the Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee.

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